

Executive Registry

63-9903

file

12 December 1963

The Honorable Robert McNamara
The Secretary of Defense

Dear Bob:

In connection with the President's economy moves, I believe we should take a very hard look at the intelligence community as a whole. Under my responsibilities as DCI I intend to do so. With this letter I ask your support and co-operation and your indication as to the individuals in your organization I can work with most effectively.

For your information I have ordered a most searching reappraisal of our activities in the Central Intelligence Agency toward accomplishing major savings in both funds and personnel.

This is only part of the problem however. CIA represents only a small percentage of the total intelligence budget.

It is therefore necessary that we take a searching look at the National Security Agency (NSA) and the SIGINT collection activities of the three Services. The same is true of the National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC), which has programmed substantial expansions. I have ordered these stopped until a thorough review can be made. Likewise, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) budget, its programs and the scope of its activities should be scrupulously reviewed.

It is important that DIA and CIA avoid unnecessary duplication. I have suggested that General Carroll and his senior officers study in depth the activities and resources of CIA and likewise that General Carter and his senior people study in depth the organizational resources of DIA in the interest of planning for the future so that each will use those available resources of

the other to the fullest extent and thereby avoid duplicating activities. Quite naturally the statutory responsibilities of the two organizations, CIA and DoD, must be respected.

With respect to the internal intelligence management problems of the Department of Defense, i.e., interrelationships of DIA and the Army, Navy and Air Force intelligence activities, you have indicated that this problem can be enormously simplified if the United States Intelligence Board is reorganized by removing the Service intelligence officers from the Board. If you approve, I suggest this be done effective January 1, 1964. The Board then would be composed of:

Director of Central Intelligence, Chairman

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

Director, Bureau of Intelligence and Research,

Department of State

Director, National Security Agency

Representative of the Atomic Energy Commission

Representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Director, National Reconnaissance Office (for

reconnaissance matters only)

DEC 13 I would appreciate your comments.

Sincerely,

(S)

John A. McCone
Director

JAM:mcm

Orig - Adse

1 - DCI Chrono

1 - DCI Defense File

1 - ER (via Ex Dir)

1 - D/NIPF

General Joseph Carroll

Mr. McCone asked me to send you the attached draft memorandum on the reorganization of the USIB. He also suggested that you look at the draft memorandum on the responsibilities of the DCI.

LBKirkpatrick

3 January 1962

Also sent copy to Roger Hilsman (State) - 4 January
Gave one copy to Mr. McCone - 5 January - to show to Gen. Taylor